Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended) An application provision system for use in a server, the server being connected to a network through a communication link, the network comprises at least one client and at least one server, the application provision system for providing a requested application to a client, the application provision system comprising:

a server resident process controlling the application provision system, and providing a requested application to a client; and

client-server functionality that is deliverable to the client, the client-server functionality communicating with the server resident process through a communication pipe, and interacting directly with an operating system resident on the client; the communication pipe being part of the communication link.

Claim 2 (original) An application provision system according to claim 1 wherein the server resident process includes a common gateway interface.

Claim 3 (original) An application provision system according to claim 1 wherein the client-server functionality is a platform independent executable program attached to a web page.

Claim 4 (original) An application provision system according to claim 3 wherein the platform independent executable program is a Java applet.

Claim 5 (currently amended) An application provision system for use in a server, the server being connected to a network through a communication link, the network comprises at least one client and at least one server, the client comprising an operating system and a browser, the application provision system for providing a requested application to a client, the application provision system comprising:

a server resident process controlling the application provision system and being able to respond to queries;

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a file ~~that is~~ deliverable to the client, the file including a platform independent executable program and parameter information; and

a communication pipe within the communications link; the platform independent executable program communicating with the server resident process through the communication pipe, and interacting directly with the operating system of the client such that the server resident process is able to perform operations within the operating system of the client.

Claim 6 (original) An application provision system according to claim 5 further comprising a database comprising information for the locating of files associated with an application that can be installed on the client.

Claim 7 (original) An application provision system according to claim 5 wherein the application provision system further comprises;

at least one file associated with at least one application wherein the application is installable on the client; and

at least one web page for downloading to the browser located on the client.

Claim 8 (original) An application provision system according to claim 5 wherein the file deliverable to the client includes a Java applet.

Claim 9 (original) An application provision system according to claim 5 wherein the server resident processes includes a common gateway interface.

Claim 10 (original) An application provision system according to claim 5 wherein the server resident process, client deliverable file and at least one file associated with the at least one application are located on the same server.

Claim 11 (original) An application provision system according to claim 5 wherein the server resident process, client deliverable file and at least one file associated with the at least one application are located on different servers that are both elements of the same network.

Claim 12 (currently amended) A web page for delivery from a server to a browser operating on a client, the server and the client being connected to a network through a communication link, the network comprising at least one client and at least one server, the server comprising

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server resident processes controlling automatic provisioning of an application, the web page for use in a system for the automatic provisioning of the application to the client, the web page comprising:

a platform independent executable program communicating with the server resident processes through a communication pipe, and interacting directly with an operating system resident on the client; the communication pipe being part of the communication link[[:]].

Claim 13 (previously presented) A web page according to claim 12 wherein the platform independent executable program is a Java applet.

Claim 14 (previously presented) A method of providing a requested application from a server to a client by an application provision system, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a first web page to a client, the first web page containing at least one link associated with a document;

receiving a request for the document by a server resident process, from a client;

providing a second web page to a client, the second web page having client-server functionality, the client-server functionality communicating with the server resident process through a communication pipe, interacting directly with an operating system resident on the client, and requesting an application to access the requested document; and

providing the requested application to the client wherein the requested application allows the client to access the requested document.

Claim 15 (previously presented) A method of providing a requested application according to claim 14 wherein the step of providing the application provides the entire application to the client.

Claim 16 (previously presented) A method of providing a requested application according to claim 14 wherein the step of providing the application provides selected files associated with the application to the client to update an existing instance of the application on the client.

Claim 17 (previously presented) A method of receiving a requested application from a server to a client by an application provision system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a first web page from a server, the first web page containing at least one link associated with a document;

providing a request for the document to a server resident process, from a client;

receiving a second web page from a server, the second web page having client-

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server functionality, the client-server functionality communicating with the server resident process through a communication pipe, interacting directly with an operating system resident on the client, and requesting an application to access the requested document; and

receiving the requested application from the server wherein the requested application allows the client to access the requested document.

Claim 18 (previously presented) A method of receiving a requested application according to claim 17 wherein the step of receiving the application receives the entire application from the client.

Claim 19 (previously presented) A method of receiving a requested application according to claim 17 wherein the step of receiving the application receives selected files associated with the application from the server to update an existing instance of the application on the client.

Claim 20 (previously presented) A method of providing a requested application from a server to a client connected to a network through a communication link, the network comprising at least one client and at least one server; the at least server comprising at least one web page for downloading by the at least one client, the method comprising the steps of:

providing client-server functionality, and a server resident process on a server;

delivering the client-server functionality to the client during the downloading of a web page to which the client-server functionality is attached, the client-server functionality interacting directly with an operating system resident on the client;

receiving a request for an application from the client-server functionality, the client-server functionality communicating with the server resident process through a communication pipe, the communication pipe being part of the communication link; and

providing by way of the server resident process the requested application to the client, through the client-server functionality.

Claim 21 (previously presented) A method of automatic provisioning of a requested application from a server to a client; the server and the client being connected to a network, the network including at least one client and at least one server, the client operating a browser and an operating system, the method comprising the steps of:

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downloading a first web page containing at least one link, the link being associated with a document, by the client from the server to which the client is connected and in communications through a communication link;

selecting the link on the downloaded first web page;

downloading a second web page by the client from the server, the second web page comprising a platform independent executable program;

opening a new window of the browser operating on the client;

invoking the platform independent executable program, the platform independent executable program interacting directly with an operating system of the client;

invoking at least one server resident process, the server resident process communicating with the client-server functionality through a communication pipe, the communication pipe being part of the communication link;

scanning the client, by the platform independent executable program to determine if the requested application is installed on the client;

providing the requested application to the client if the requested application is not installed on the client; and

invoking the requested application.

Claim 22 (original) A method according to claim 21 further comprising the step of providing code which allows the performance of secure operations within the operating system of the client.

Claim 23 (previously presented) A method according to claim 21 wherein the step of providing the requested application to the client comprises the steps of:

providing a setup executable file associated with the requested application by the server to the client, if the setup executable file is absent on the client;

installing the setup executable file on the client, if the setup executable is absent on the client;

invoking the setup executable file;

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providing files associated with a requested version of the requested application by the setup executable file from the server to the client; and

installing native components on the client such that the native components do not interfere with the operating system of the client.

Claim 24 (previously presented) A method according to claim 21 wherein the step of providing the requested application comprises the steps of:

determining if a version of the requested application previously installed on the client is the same as a version of the requested application located on the server; and

installing the requested application on the client if the version of the requested application installed on the client is not the version of the requested application located on the server.

Claim 25 (currently amended) A method according to claim 24 wherein the step of determining if the version of the requested application installed on the client is the version that is being requested comprises the steps of:

querying an installation footprint of the application on the client to determine a location of files associated with the application installed on the client are within a memory of the client;

determining version information for the application installed on the client;

transferring the version information of the application installed on the client to the server; and

comparing the version information of the application installed on the client with version information associated with the version of the application located on the server.

Claim 26 (previously presented) A method of automatically provisioning a requested application from a server to a client; the server and client being elements of a network connected through a communication link, the client operating a browser and an operating system, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a first web page to the client, the first web page having a link, the link being associated with a document wherein the document is accessible with the requested

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application;

receiving a request for a second web page by way of the client selecting the link associated with the document;

providing the second web page to the client, the second web page comprising a platform independent executable program, the platform independent executable program interacting directly with an operating system of the client;

receiving communications from the platform independent executable program through a communication pipe, the communication pipe being part of the communication link;

invoking a server resident process;

communicating with the platform independent executable program located on the client to facilitate determination of whether the requested application is installed on the client;

providing files associated with the requested application to the client for installation of the requested application on the client, if the requested application is not installed on the client;

transferring files associated with the requested application to the client for installation of the application on the client; and

invoking the requested application.

Claim 27 (previously presented) A method according to claim 26 wherein the step of providing files comprises the steps of:

providing a setup executable program associated with the requested application by the server to the client, if the setup executable program does not exist on the client;

installing the setup executable program on the client, if the setup executable program does not exist on the client;

invoking the setup executable program;

providing files associated with a requested version of the requested application by the setup executable program from the server to the client; and

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installing native components on the client such that the native components do not interfere with the operating system of the client.

Claim 28 (previously presented) A method according to claim 26 wherein the step of providing files comprises the steps of:

comparing version information of the requested application installed on the client with version information of the requested application located on the server if it was determined that the requested application was installed on the client; and

transferring files associated with the requested application to the client for installation of the requested application on the client if the version of the requested application on the client is not the same as the version of the application located on the server.

Claim 29 (previously presented) A method according to claim 26 wherein the step of providing files comprises the steps of:

querying an installation footprint of the application installed on the client to determine a location of files associated with the application installed on the client are within a memory of the client;

determining version information for the application installed on the client;

transferring the version information of the application installed on the client to the server; and

comparing the version information of the application installed on the client with version information associated with the version of the application located on the server.

Claim 30 (previously presented) A computer readable memory element storing the instructions or statements for use in the execution in a computer of a method of automatic provisioning a requested application from a server to a client; the server and client being elements of a network connected through a communication link, the client operating a browser and an operating system, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a first web page to the client, the first web page having a link, the link being associated with a document wherein the document is accessible with the requested application;

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receiving a request for a second web page by way of the client selecting the link associated with the document;

providing the second web page to the client, the second web page comprising a platform independent executable program, the platform independent executable program interacting directly with an operating system of the client;

receiving communications from the platform independent executable program through a communication pipe, the communication pipe being part of the communication link;

invoking a server resident process;

communicating with the platform independent executable program located on the client to facilitate determination of whether the requested application is installed on the client;

providing files associated with the requested application to the client for installation of the requested application on the client, if the requested application is not installed on the client;

transferring files associated with the requested application to the client for installation of the application on the client; and

invoking the requested application.

Claim 31 (previously presented) Electronic signals for use in the execution in a computer of a method for automatic provisioning a requested application from a server to a client; the server and client being elements of a network connected through a communication link, the client operating a browser and an operating system, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a first web page to the client, the first web page having a link, the link being associated with a document wherein the document is accessible with the requested application;

receiving a request for a second web page by way of the client selecting the link associated with the document;

providing the second web page to the client, the second web page comprising a platform independent executable program, the platform independent executable program interacting directly with an operating system of the client;

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receiving communications from the platform independent executable program
through a communication pipe, the communication pipe being part of the communication link;

invoking a server resident process;

communicating with the platform independent executable program located on the
client to facilitate determination of whether the requested application is installed on the client;

providing files associated with the requested application to the client for installation of
the requested application on the client, if the requested application is not installed on the
client;

transferring files associated with the requested application to the client for installation
of the application on the client; and

invoking the requested application.

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